

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SNM-02 AID-05 NSC-05 TRSE-00

JUSE-00 RSC-01 /036 W

----- 058096

R 110441Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1847

INFO DEA HQS WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: SNAR, CE

SUBJ: DEA TRAINING IN SRI LANKA

ANKARA AND NEW DELHI FOR DEA

REF: STATE 189534 (NOTAL); COLOMBO 346

1. SOME TIME LAST

SPRING, OFFICIAL OF SRI LANKA

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS TELEPHONED
EMBASSY TO SAY THAT GSL PREFERRED FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
IN NARCOTICS FIELD TO BE ON MULTILATERAL BASIS
RATHER THAN BILATERAL SO THAT PROPOSED DEA TRAINING
IN SRI LANKA WOULD

NOT BE NECESSARY. OFFICIAL ADDED
VAGUE AND SOMEWHAT CONTRADICTORY STATEMENT THAT
"OTHER" FORMS OF BILATERAL ASSISTANCE WOULD BE
WELCOMED. FURTHER QUESTIONING PRODUCED EXAMPLE
OF VEHICLES. ALTHOUGH MDFA OFFICIAL SAID GSL
POSITION AND RATIONALE WOULD BE PUT FORMALLY
IN WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO EMBASSY, IT NEVER CAME.

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2. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER LAKSHMAN JAYAKODY'S

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN WASHINGTON IN DEA TRAINING (STATE 156596) WAS CLEARLY AT VARIANCE WITH GSL STAND AS WE UNDERSTOOD IT FROM TELEPHONE CONVERSATION (UNLESS HIS STATEMENT WAS MERELY REFLECTION OF CEYLONSE COURTESY).

3. DCM HAD OPPORTUNITY FEW DAYS AGO TO CHECK SITUATION WITH JAYAKODY AND TO PROPOSE ONCE AGAIN DEA IN-COUNTRY TRAINING COURSE (STATE 189534). JAYAKODY SAID HE HAD COME TO CONCLUSION THAT, WHILE GSL HAD UP TO NOW ACCEPTED ONLY MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE IN NARCOTICS CONTROL, HE THOUGHT IT COULD ALSO USE BILATERAL HELP. SRI LANKA POLICE, HE SAID, WERE DEFINITELY INTERESTED IN BILATERAL ASSISTANCE (WHICH WE KNEW AT TIME MDFA TOOK DIFFERENT POSITION IN SPRING, PRESUMABLY ON POLITICAL GROUNDS). HE WOULD, HOWEVER, HAVE TO PRESENT PROPOSAL TO PRIME MINISTER, WHO WOULD TAKE DECISION ON MATTER.

4. COMMENT: WE MAY AGAIN BE IN FOR ANOTHER ROUND OF INDECISION, BUT JAYAKODY, WHO HEADS NATIONAL NARCOTICS ADVISORY BOARD, DOES HIMSELF SEEM INTERESTED IN DEA TRAINING. FROM EMBASSY'S STANDPOINT, SRI LANKA'S CURRENT UTILIZATION OF MULTILATERAL AID IN NARCOTICS CONTROL (THOUGH UNITED NATIONS, COLOMBO PLAN, AND INTERPOL) MAY BE SUFFICIENT TO ITS NEEDS, BUT IF IT ACCEPTS DEA IN-COUNTRY TRAINING, SO MUCH THE BETTER. WE ARE SURE DECEMBER DATE MENTIONED STATE 189534 WILL BE TOO EARLY FOR GSL, GIVEN VAGARIES OF CEYLONSE BUREAUCRACY AND DECISION-MAKING, AND IT MAY ALSO BE FOR DEA PLANNING. WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE NEW DATES IN 1975 WHEN DEA IN-COUNTRY TRAINING COURSE COULD BE SCHEDULED, IF GSL DECISION IS FAVORABLE.
VAN HOLLEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL TRAINING, DRUG CONTROL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974COLOMB03164
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740323-0886
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741154/aaaabuec.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 189534 (NOTAL); COLOMBO 346
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 AUG 2002 by kellew0>; APPROVED <14 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEA TRAINING IN SRI LANKA ANKARA AND NEW DELHI FOR DEA
TAGS: SNAR, CE, DEA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005